

## Does It Really Matter What We Teach?

### Introduction:

- I. Does it really matter. We have been asking that question the last couple of weeks because there many people in the religious world who are under the impression that nothing really matters except that one believes in Jesus mental assent. As long as one believes in Jesus, they say, nothing else really matters. Well, we have tried to expose that as a false conclusion by looking at some things that do really matter. For example, we have seen that it does really matter what church you attend. Why? It matters because there are many man-made churches and yet there is salvation only in the church that Christ built. Solomon once said, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it" (**Psa. 127:1**). Thus, it does really matter. Then on last week, we asked the question, does it really matter what we teach? The answer, of course, is yes it does really matter. Why? It matters because God demands that we abide in the doctrine of Christ (**2 Jn. 9**). If we do not abide in the doctrine of Christ, John says that we have not God. Thus, it does really matter what we teach.
  
- II. In this lesson, then, we want to look at something else that does really matter, and we will do so by once again asking the question, "does it really matter?" Well, "Does It Really It Really Matter How We Worship God?"

### Lesson:

- I. **It Matters Because God Demands Bible Authority for Everything That We Teach.**

Col 3:17

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

1 Peter 4:11

If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...

2 John 9

Whosoever transgresses, and abides not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abides in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

Can there be any doubt about the importance of what teach? Some have tried to water down the significance of this passage in 2 John by saying that the doctrine of Christ is simply the story about Jesus, i.e., the story that tells about His death, burial and resurrection. Surely the doctrine of Christ involves that glorious story, but that is not all of it. The doctrine of Christ is not only what is taught about Jesus, it is what Jesus taught. In other words, the doctrine of Christ is the teachings of Christ (**Matt. 7:28; 22:29-33; Lk. 4:28-32; Rev. 2:14-15**). And let's

remember something here: the teachings of Christ are not only what came directly out of His mouth, but what the inspired apostles taught and wrote as well.

Luke 10:16

He that hears you hears me; and he that despises you despises me; and he that despises me despises him that sent me.

So then, the doctrine of Christ is what we read about in this book the New Testament. We must abide in this book and when we don't our souls are at stake (**Gal. 1:6-9**).

## **II. It Matters Because What We Teach Influences What We Practice.**

This is why it is so alarming when preachers in the church of Christ begin to teach strange doctrines. The end result is usually strange practices that lead to more division among the people of God. Let me give you an example of some of the strange sounds we are now hearing.

### **A) Some are now teaching that we should speak in tongues.**

Carroll Osburn, who once was a teacher at Harding, Abilene Christian and Pepperdine Universities, said the following:

"I am no longer willing to say that anyone who does speak in a tongue has an experience that is not of God. I can no longer stand in judgment on that person's experience...If in the Corinthian church Paul said, 'Do not forbid the speaking in tongues,' I am no longer willing to forbid the speaking in tongues" (That Which is Perfect, a speech delivered at the ACU Lectures, Feb. 24, 1992).

Does it really matter what we teach? Yes! The next thing you know, there will be some advocating not only that we should be speaking in tongues today, but that we are not true Christians in less we have done so. However the truth is that tongue speaking, and the rest of the miracles of the first century, have ceased (**1 Cor. 13:8-13; Acts 8:5-21**).

### **B) Some are now teaching that we need to allow women to serve in our public assemblies.**

This isn't anything new but it continues to gain momentum in some circles. In 1989 the Brookline church in Boston, Massachusetts admitted that they were using women in leadership roles and had been for several years. That same year the Bering Drive church began using women to lead singing and prayers and to serve communion. In 1990 it was reported that a church in Birmingham, Alabama made public their intentions to use women in every aspect of the worship and work of the church. But now, do you think that this happened overnight? Do you think that one day these churches just started to use women in leadership roles? No, they

first introduced it in their teaching, but what a church teaches, it soon begins to practice.

Listen: women can't be elders or deacons because the Bible says that elders and deacons must be the husband of one wife (**1 Tim. 3:2, 12**). Women can't be preachers because preachers are to **"speak, and exhort and rebuke with all authority"** (**Tit. 2:15**), and women are not to usurp authority over the man (**1 Tim. 2:11-13**). Does it really matter what we teach? Yes it matters for if we teach error, we are going to end up practicing error sooner or later.

**C) Some are now teaching that we are saved by grace alone.**

A preacher by the name of Glen Owen said in a sermon preached at the Midtown church in Ft. Worth Texas, *"...We are saved by grace alone plus nothing. You are saved by faith period. There is nothing you can do be saved."*

Rubel Shelly said, *"Our salvation arises entirely and only from grace...It is entirely of grace through faith...it is a scandalous and outrageous lie to teach that salvation arises from human activity. We do not contribute one whit to our salvation (Rubel Shelly, "Loveliness, Oct 31, 1990).*

Max Lacado, perhaps the most popular member of the church among denominational folks today, concluded his popular radio program with this invitation: *"God will make you worthy and the invitation is for you. And all you have to do is to call Him father. Just call Him father. Just turn your heart to Him right now as I am speaking. Call Him your Father. And your Father will respond. Why don't you do that? 'Father, I give my heart to you. I give you my sins. I give you my fears. I give you my whole life. I accept the gift of your Son on the cross for my sins. And I ask you Father to receive me as your child. Through Jesus I pray. Amen'" (Sermon on tape, preached Dec. 1996 on KJAK in Lubbock, TX).*

Isn't that something? I never thought I would hear a preacher in the church of Christ leading the "sinner's prayer," but there you have it. Why? Because now people are teaching that we are saved by faith alone. Does it matter what we teach? Of course it does. The *"faith only"* doctrine can't save anyone. God's plan of salvation must be followed if we are going to be saved and that plan involves being baptized for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16; Acts 22:16**). Yes it matters what we teach. And by the way, Max Lacado has for years now has offered the right hand of fellowship to almost all denominational churches.

- He participated in a service with the Roman Catholics at St. John Neumann Church in San Antonio, TX, on Dec. 4, 1989 and called the priest "father."
- He spoke at Trinity Church Family Center, a charismatic group, in San Antonio on April 6, 1990.

- He co-authored the book, *“Christ in Easter: A Family Celebration of Holy Week”*, with Billy Graham and Charles Colson.
- On April 2, 1992 he swapped pulpits with the preacher for the Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio and called it *“a statement of acceptance.”*

How could a church of Christ preacher join ranks with sectarian churches? It begins by a change of think, which leads to a change of teaching which leads to a change of practice. Yes, it does matter what we believe and teach.

### **III. It Matters Because What We Teach Can Lead to the Overthrow of faith.**

That false doctrine can lead to the loss of souls is indicated by the passage we studied in our first point, that is, 2 John 9. But we actually have a Bible example of this happening, as well as a strong warning from Paul about the danger of such (**2 Tim. 2:16-18; 1 Cor. 15:33**).

#### **Conclusion:**

Yes, what we teach really matters. I know there are many who think that we can teach anything that we want to and as long as we believe in Jesus, it's okay. But it's not okay. Let's determine to speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent.